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Personalities

Jack Anderson's Good Timing

For the next several days, stories about the U.S. attack on Libya and about **Muammar Qaddafi** will fill the newspapers. It did seem oddly timely that yesterday's **Jack Anderson** and **Joseph Spear** column talked about recently declassified State Department cables revealing Qaddafi plots in Nigeria in 1983 and in Egypt in 1984. The column, in fact, had been written a week ago.

Spear said yesterday that the column had been in the works for about two weeks. "We just got lucky with the timing and coincidence," he said. **Lucette Lagnado**, a reporter for the Anderson/Spear column, saw the cables through a Freedom of Information Act request. "You know how Freedom of Information requests are," Spear said. "Sometimes it's like pulling teeth and sometimes it's damn easy. This time it was damn easy."